DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, the issue that has been raised by Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri is a very serious one. I have not gone through the report of the *Times of India*. I have also not gone through the book. I would suggest to him to go through the whole material. What there is in the book, I don't know.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you want to react?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: What I am suggesting is that we should take it up again in the next Session... (*Interruptions*)... I hope you will agree with me.

Re. ACUTE SHORTAGE OF UREA

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA (Haryana): Madam, the acute shortage of urea in the country has caused a serious setback to the sowing of wheat crop and overall setback to the production in the North Indian States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P. etc. Urea is being sold in black-market and the farmers are very angry. The Ministry has failed to rectify the situation despite advance warning by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers, by the leaders of the farming community as well as by the media. The NFL which is one of the principal organisations for the production and distribution of urea and which has three plants in North India is guilty as it has failed to supply urea in time despite advance warning. The situation is scandalous and can be compared to the sugar scam. It needs to be probed at the highest level.

Another calamity that has befallen us is in the shape of a hailstorm which has caused irreparable damage to the standing wheat crops in North India. I would request through you, Madam, and throgh the House, that the Government should pay compensation to those farmers whose crop has been damaged by the hailstrom and also probe the shortage of urea fertiliser in North India. Thank you, Madam.

STATEMENT REGARDING ORDINANCE BANKING COMPANIES ((ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1995

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) explaining the circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation by the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Ordinance, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7049/95]

THE BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) AMENTMENT BILL, 1995

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT REGARDING ORDINANCE THE SECURITIES LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1995

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) explaining the circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation by the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 1995

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7050/95]